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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Monday - 17 January 1955

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2. Gen. Verne Mudge, of the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, today requested our informal views on S. Con. Res. 2, the Mansfield Resolution to establish a Joint Committee on Central Intelligence. Gen. Mudge stated that when he and Senator Saltonstall appeared before the Rules Committee last year in opposition to the Mansfield resolution, they considered themselves very poorly prepared and wished to have more and better arguments at their finger tips. In addition, Gen. Mudge would like to have a note describing the difference between S. Con. Res. 2 and last year's Mansfield resolutions. The General also told me that proposed rules which were before Chairman Russell for the operation of the Senate Armed Services Committee in the current session of the Congress contained a provision for a subcommittee on CIA. While Chairman Russell has not made any final decision as to whether there will be such a subcommittee, he has stated that if there is he will chair it himself.

3. Mr. Lyman Hamilton, one of the specially cleared Bureau of the Budget staff who handles CIA matters, called me to see whether there was any change in the Agency views concerning the Mansfield resolution. I told him that we had not changed our position; that the final say in such matters was up to Congress; but that we felt that the Armed Services Committees were our parent committees and we look to them to handle such matters without the need of interposing an additional group. I called Mr. Hamilton's attention to Sen. Mansfield's comments on introducing the resolution and noted that this may well raise major questions in the field of separation of powers. Mr. Hamilton told me that he had talked last year with the Bureau of the Budget's Atomic Energy Commission examiner about how a joint committee had functioned with AEC, and the examiner had listed many objections, first and foremost of which was the size of the Committee staff which kept AEC personnel busy for literally weeks on end in answering questions and preparing reports and data for the Joint Committee staff. This examiner felt that other detriments of a joint committee were such that security was only fourth on the list.

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4. [] of OCI, discussed the dissemination of Congressional material to OCI. Their initial suggestion was that we disseminate the material directly to divisions within OCI. I pointed out that while we were willing to undertake anything OCI requested, many of the documents covered more than one division within OCI and that we were not in a position to determine the priorities between them. Furthermore [] stated that at the division level they would have to review the document to determine which branch or country desk received it first. I stated that I felt it would be arbitrary for Legislative Counsel to attempt to set the priorities as between OCI divisions, and therefore it was finally agreed that all Congressional publications applicable to OCI would be sent directly to [] whose staff would route them within OCI. I informed Mr. Sheldon of this decision, and he has approved it.

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6. Attention is also called to S. 147, a bill to require the Secretary of State to transmit to the Senate the text of any international agreement other than a treaty to which the United States is a party within 30 days after final formalities. This type of legislation is of interest to CIA in connection with any secret intelligence annexes which are a part of international agreements other than treaties.

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